option found by the Consultant is a Railway line taking-off from Paradeep Yard parallet to port Railways lines through port area and then entering into IFFCO plant. This PETS report has been approved by the East-Coast Railways subject to approval by the Paradeep Port Trust Authority, IFFCO has been pursuing the matter with Paradeep Port Trust Authority.

Liquefied natural gas based chemical plants

1277. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) based chemical plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether such plants have set-up LNG terminals in their plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated cost of setting up of such plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) The information is being collected from the concerned ministries/departments and will be laid on the table of the house.

Exorbitant prices of medicines

1278. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pharmaceutical companies charge exorbitant price for their drugs and formulations without any control/check;

(b) if so, the steps taken to monitor prices of drugs; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure availability of life saving drug in sufficient quantity at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed / revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. For any violation of prices fixed by NPPA, action is taken under provisions of para 13 of DPCO, 1995.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

As a part of price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-Scheduled formulations.

herever any abnormal prices increase is noticed, necessary action is taken. The manufacturer is impressed upon in such cases to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, if justified, action is initiated under para 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995. This is an ongoing process.

The NPPA has also stepped up enforcement activities and a separate enforcement division has been started which purchases medicines from the market to check that prices fixed by NPPA are implemented. No such information has been brought to the notice of NPPA regarding charging of exorbitant prices of drugs and formulations without any control/check by pharmaceutical companies.

DAP supply to U.P. and Bihar

†1279. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of DAP as requisitioned by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, respectively;

(b) what is the quantity of DAP released to these States as against their respective demand;

(c) whether a separate package increasing the quantity of DAP for the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar has been given for the 'rabi' crop in view of the failure of 'Kharif' crop; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The requirement and availability of DAP for Kharif, 2008 and Rabi' 2008-09 in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is as under:

Qty. in ('000 MTs)

Season	Uttar Pradesh		Bihar	
	Requirement	Availability	Requirement	Availability
Kharif '08	500.00	723.48	150.00	186.80
Rabi' 08-09 (upto November, 2008)	650.00	568.77	190.00	135.42

(c) and (d) The demand of various fertilizers is assessed by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in consultation with State Agriculture Department. The Department of Fertilizers (DOF) facilitates availability of decontrolled fertilizers *viz.*, is DAP/MOP/NPK etc. in accordance with assessed requirement. No allocation is given by DOF for decontrolled fertilizers as has been in the case of urea.

Variation in medicine prices leading to exploitation of patients

†1280. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi